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CITYNEWARK

The new perspective on city living

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Ricardo Khan returns to Crossroads, new season

New Brunswick — Crossroads Theatre Company of New Brunswick, NJ, has officially announced four plays for the 2003-2004 season and the return of its Co-Founder and former Artistic Director Ricardo Khan.

In making the announcement of Khan's return as Artistic Director, Crossroads Theatre Company Board President Marguerite Mitchell-Ivey stated: "We are energized by this latest development for Crossroads, and it couldn't have come at a better time, our 25th anniversary! Ricardo's return is just one more important step in our efforts to bring back artistic distinction and excitement to the theatre company."

Last month a partnership with the John F. Kennedy



Ricardo Khan

Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, D.C. was announced which includes Crossroads' participation in an institutional capacity building program with an assembly of arts managers and directors from across the country. This was the first of several recent

See CROSSROADS on page 8

Thankful Plainfield youth tells how DYFS worker turned his life around



Paulette Brown and her son Dijaun

PLAINFIELD — For his first public speaking event, Dijaun Brown didn't really believe that he would be called upon to speak at the NJ Black Ministers' Council Annual Conference this June in Newark, so he left his notes at home. He did speak, however, and spoke from the heart... bringing the audience of 250 ministers and community leaders to tears.

Speaking from memory, he re-told his college entrance essay... which not only helped to get him accepted to Howard University and Clark Atlanta University, but also is a living testament to the value of the DYFS social worker who turned his life around. Yolanda Sterling, who works out of the Metro ARC (Adoption

See DYFS on page 12



Marc H. Morial, the newly-elected president and CEO of the National Urban League

Morial Pledges a New 'Empowerment' Program

By George E. Curry
Editor-in-Chief NNPA News Service

PITTSBURGH (NNPA) — Marc H. Morial, the newly-elected president and CEO of the National Urban League, kicked off his first convention here Sunday by outlining a five-point empowerment program that will typify a new type of civil rights movement and by promising to reject quick fixes and sloganeering.

"We must use our power as the National Urban League to bring together people from both inside the movement and outside the movement to develop carefully thought-out ways to address the problems and then advocate for their implementation," the former New Orleans mayor told the cheering crowd. "Quick fixes, fast solutions, sloganeering will make headlines tomorrow but won't solve problems next

month, next week, and next year. We, the Urban League, must offer solutions, ideas and action."

Saying that the National Urban League "cannot simply be doctors who are long on diagnosis and short on prescriptions," Morial outlined a plan to close "the equality gap" in five areas: education, the economy, health and quality of life, civic engagement and civil rights and racial justice.

"The equality gap vividly demonstrates that contrary to superficial appearances and divisive rhetoric, we, America, the National Urban League, all of us still have much work to do," he said. "The empowerment movement will not be televised and is not a movement of weapons or war, not a movement of hate and division, but a new type of movement: A movement that commits to action. And as the National

Urban League, we must lead this new movement."

Morial called for a national summit on urban education next spring, which will mark the 40th anniversary of the U.S. Supreme Court's "Brown v. Education of Topeka, Kan." decision outlawing segregated public schools.

"We will examine where we have come since 'Brown vs. Board,' with an eye towards charting a new course to close the reading gap, to close the achievement gap, to ensure that every child, whether they're from the south side of Chicago, the South Bronx, or the Hill District right here in Pittsburgh, that they have the tools that they need to read at the highest levels, do math with great proficiency, and academically perform with distinction."

Morial received the most

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When 9 yr old green belt Kalani Mackson stepped into the fighting ring for the sixth time in less than one hour, he had no idea it was for such high stakes. After defeating five previous opponents, he made it to the finals and a chance to win a gold medal. For a first time competitor in the event that attracted thousands of kids, parents and coaches to the Orange County Convention Center in Orlando, Kalani was sure and confident yet seemingly oblivious to the pending accomplishment ahead. As a student at Gilliam's Taekwondo Academy in Dunellen, Kalani is a member of the Tiger Elite Program. Tiger Elite is a hand picked group of students who are known for their black and red uniforms, their fierce competitive spirit and tough workouts. In addition to the 2-3 normal classes per week, Tiger Elite have additional training schedules, which include a weekly two-mile run around Plainfield's Hub Stine Field Track (Olympic size). With the conditioning and confidence of a Junior Olympian, Kalani easily defeated the taller combatant from New Mexico, in a 3-1 point match, to win the Gold medal and the title; National Champion Green Belt 8-9 yr. Division. After the match Kalani said, "At First I was nervous...but my dream was to come to win." And so he did.

Equal Opportunity Day Dinner "Celebrating Those Who Dare To Dream"

The organization honored Dr. Gwendolyn Goldsby-Grant, renowned psychologist and author, The Reverend Dr. David Jefferson, Sr., senior pastor, Metropolitan Baptist Church, Robert A. Marchman, vice president, NYSE Community Service, Sheila Oliver, vice president, Essex County Department of Human Services and Sharon C. Taylor, senior vice president, Corporate Human Resources, Prudential Financial, Inc. The event was hosted by NBC news anchor Maurice DuBios.



Wayne Davis, ULEC Board of Trustees Chair Brenda Jackson, Art Ransom, ULEC CEO Cheryl Pelt and Tracey Taylor, celebrate Anheuser-Busch's \$10,000 contribution to support the ULEC Equal Opportunity Day



WNBC Anchor Maurice DuBois, ULEC CEO Cheryl Pelt, Equal Opportunity Day honorees Robert Marchman, Sheila Oliver, Gwendolyn Goldsby-Grant, Sharon Taylor, Rev. Dr. David Jefferson, Dinner Chair Kimberley Goode, and ULEC Board of Trustees Chair Brenda Jackson.



Essex County College nursing graduates and Newark residents get together with ECC Nursing Department Chairperson Marlene Day during the 2003 Awards Ceremony for Graduates. Joining Day, on left, are graduates (from second on left) Olubukola Odunlade, Mathias Omon Ologbesele and Olubusayo Remi-Johnson. All three were top nursing students in the Class of 2003.



Newark Mayor Sharpe James addresses the audience at a City Hall press conference to announce the seizure of \$2 million worth of stolen cars by Newark Police, working with other agencies. 24 arrests were made in what Newark Police called a city-based ring that stole, re-tagged, and re-sold a variety of cars, including luxury vehicles.

Friendly Poets from Newark Sought

The Friendly Poets Society is offering a \$1,000 grand prize in their latest poetry competition, free to everyone. There are 50 prizes in all worth almost \$5,000. The contest is seeking poems on any subject, using any style, with a life-affirming inspirational theme.

"We think inspirational poems can motivate people to achieve their dreams," says Contest Director Ms Lavender Augulis. "We're especially looking to inspire amateur poets and we think this competition will accomplish that."

To enter, send one poem 21 lines or less to: Lavender Augulis, Poetry Contest, 2255 N. University Parkway, Suite 15, #196, Provo, Utah 84604. Or go to www.friendlypoets.com and enter online.

The deadline for entering is August 23, 2003. A winner's list will be sent to all entrants. The editors reserve the right to publish the winning poems online or in a pamphlet.

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BRIEFS

MARKER ON LINCOLN MEMORIAL STEPS HONORS DR. KING'S "I HAVE A DREAM" SPEECH

(Special to the NNPA)—A plaque honoring the late Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. has been placed on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial, 40 years after his historic "I Have a Dream" speech.

Approximately 4 million visitors each year will see the \$8,300 project. The plaque, etched on a landing on the steps of the memorial, is 24-inches wide and 10-inches tall and reads: I HAVE A DREAM MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. THE MARCH ON WASHINGTON FOR JOBS AND FREEDOM AUGUST 28, 1963

Louisville attorney Tom Williams spearheaded the effort for the memorial when he visited the Lincoln Memorial in October 1997. After searching for a marker denoting the spot where King stood, he found none.

"It just seemed like an obvious omission," Williams told reporters. After contacting his congresswoman, Rep. Anne M. Northup (R-Ky.), Williams requested that a marker be placed on the steps. Northup began the legislative process, and eventually Public Law 106-365 was passed in October 2000.

MORE BLACK ELDERLY FOREGO PRESCRIPTION DRUGS

(Special to the NNPA)—The African-American elderly receiving Medicare are more than twice as likely as Whites to go without prescription drugs, according to a recent study.

The study, conducted by the Center for Studying Health System Change, reveals that Medicare does not cover the majority of prescription medicines given outside hospitals.

Based upon a 2001 survey of 60,000 people, the study included about 7,770 elderly Medicare recipients. It revealed that 16.4 percent of elderly Blacks reported they could not afford to fill at least one prescription in the previous year, compared to a 6.8 percent of elderly Whites.

Researchers said that nearly half of the gap is attributable to differences in income, supplemental insurance and chronic conditions. As a group, Whites are wealthier, more likely to have private insurance and less likely to have chronic health conditions.

Detroit and Philadelphia Feel Pain of Bush Administration Economic Policies

By Doug Thornell

Washington, D.C. — Today, President Bush embarks on a swing through Philadelphia, PA and the Metro Detroit area to tout his misguided economic policies. In Philadelphia, President Bush is expected to visit a Federal Treasury Department service facility that is printing tax cut checks to wealthy families. While in the Metro Detroit area, the President is expected to raise money for his campaign and make remarks on the sputtering economy at Beaver Aerospace and Defense Inc.

While the Congressional Black Caucus (CBC) has been unable to secure a meeting with the President since January 31, 2001, several members of the caucus felt the need to update the President on some of their concerns they have about his handling of the economy.

Under the stewardship of President Bush, over 3 million jobs have been lost, the African American unemployment has skyrocketed to 11.8 %, the projected 10-year budget deficit has ballooned to over \$4 trillion, and many states have been forced to raise taxes and shoulder some of the federal government's responsibilities. President Bush's job-creation record is the lowest since the Administration of Herbert

Hoover.

"Because of the President and the Congressional Republicans' economic policies, and their unwillingness to work with Democrats, our great country remains mired in an economic quagmire of which the President and the Republicans have no plan for a way out," said U.S. Rep. Elijah E. Cummings (D-MD), Chairman of the Congressional Black Caucus.

In Philadelphia, 52,400 people are looking for work in a city with a 7.8 percent unemployment rate. Most of these unemployed workers will not receive any of the tax cut.

"While President Bush is welcome in Philadelphia, the economic damage of his tax cuts, fewer jobs and more debt are unwelcomed. Without these tax cuts, we could invest more in education, health care, and affordable housing. Our nation's budget has moved from a surplus to more than a \$450 billion deficit. Mr. President, our community and our country would be better served by the simple assertion of truth, that a \$100 tax cut for the average citizen coupled with massive tax cuts for the rich does no good for our struggling economy," said U.S. Rep. Chaka Fattah (D-PA).

Detroit's unemployment

rate has jumped 26 percent since President Bush took office, leaving 29,149 people without work.

"I don't know why President Bush is coming to Michigan. Michigan is suffering under this administration. There has been a loss of more than 152,000 jobs under this presidential administration. The Republican tax cut will only allow 48 percent of Michigan residents any relief and the amount they will receive is less than \$100," commented U.S. Rep. Carolyn Kilpatrick (D-MI).

While wealthy families in both Michigan and Pennsylvania collect their tax checks:

* Students at Michigan's public universities must pay an extra \$490 per year to make up for budget cuts that could have been avoided had the Bush tax cut been used to help cash-strapped state university systems;

* Local hospitals in Pennsylvania must scramble to provide basic health care services because of a \$250 million cut to Medicaid in the state; and

* Almost 110,000 adult education students in Michigan must be on a waiting list to

improve their job skills because of a \$20 million budget shortfall in the school aid budget.

Finally, Chairman Cummings pointed out that very few families would receive the child tax rebate checks that will be printed during President Bush's tour of the minting facility. In Pennsylvania, 352,000 families will not see these checks in the mail, while 226,000 families in Michigan will not receive a child tax credit.

"Last month, I asked the question 'when will this Administration wake up to the reality that people are hurting?' Unfortunately, it seems the Administration and Congressional Republicans are still asleep at the wheel, dreaming of a day when dividend and capital gains tax cuts will create jobs. However, the reality is, trickle down economics has not worked, does not work, and will not work," said Chairman Cummings.

The CBC looks forward to meeting with the President about the many pressing domestic and international challenges facing America.

Doug Thornell Communications Director Congressional Black Caucus

Morial Pledges a New 'Empowerment' Program

Continued from page 1

thunderous applause when he proclaimed, "It is not just about leaving no child behind. It is about pushing every child ahead."

The education conference will place special emphasis on the shrinking number of Black males in honors programs and those who enroll in college, the new Urban League leader says.

As for the economy, Morial said, "The rising tide of the prosperous '90s were supposed to lift our boats, but unfortunately many boats in America have sprung a leak. The yachts have sprung a leak and the rowboats are about to capsize."

He said the National Urban League will focus on stimulating business development and entrepreneurship. These issues will be examined by a special "Commission on Jobs and the Urban Economy," Morial said. That panel will look into other issues, such as increasing corporate investment in inner cities, increasing home ownership and closing the skills gap

between Blacks and Whites.

Morial also announced that the Urban League will launch a "National African-American Wellness Initiative" that will promote healthy eating habits, improved physical fitness, preventive health care and increased access to affordable health care.

The Urban League plans to become more active in registering Blacks to vote, a task it had largely left to the NAACP, the National Coalition on Black Civic Participation, and other civil rights groups.

"The most fundamental weapon of civic empowerment has always been the right to vote," Morial said. "Everybody from George Bush to Al Sharpton recognizes the growing power of the African-American vote in national elections. Sadly, however, too many of us still don't get it."

"Overall voter participation in America hovers around 50 percent. In 2003, voter apathy is a weapon of mass destruction. Lack of civic participation

is a weapon of mass destruction. When we do not vote and do not participate in the civic life of our community, we are inflicting wounds on ourselves."

Noting the National Urban League's federal tax-exempt status that requires it to be non-partisan, Morial observed: "We must never cross the line and tell people for whom to vote, but being non-partisan does not mean being naïve. We cannot act like an ostrich, bury our heads in the sand and pretend that political events do not affect the work that we do or the people we care about."

Morial showed that he is sensitive to criticism by some that the National Urban League, with the most affluent membership of any civil rights organization, sometimes distances itself from many of the grassroots community issues.

"We must enthusiastically embrace and not distance ourselves from our heritage as a civil rights organization that promotes racial justice—from

employment to police violence, from redistricting issues to racial profiling, we cannot stand on the side. To do so would dishonor the legacy of Whitney [Young] and Vernon [Jordan]," he said, referring to two legendary former executive directors of the organization.

Morial also sought to reassure the organization's traditional members that his new empowerment movement will not be carried out at the expense of the basic character of the National Urban League.

"But Urban Leaguers, we are more, much more, than a civil rights organization—we are a multi-racial movement that provides direct services, from job training to Head Start, from charter schools to building housing," he said. "We are an organization of unparalleled excellence when it comes to serving people, researching tough problems and encouraging social and economic change."

The way I see it!

Signs of the Time



By Henry C. Johnson, Ph.D.

Which way do I go?

Recently, the State Department of Transportation announced its plans to improve signage on NJ roads and highways.

Hallelujah!

Well despite the budget deficit woes of the State, spending to improve signage in the Garden State is a big plus. Improving signage can save lives and reduce frustration for folks who don't know where they are going and get more confused by multiple signs, signs too low that can't be seen over large trucks, buses, or SUV's, signs too close to an exit that do not give enough time to make a turn if you happen to be in the wrong lane.

In fact, improving signage on New Jersey Roadways, including the toll roads could be the single most important and useful act accomplished for the citizens and visitors to the State.

Image driving the Turnpike and Garden State Parkway and knowing where the lanes are for EZ Pass, Exact Change, and Receipts on every trip. Better yet image having signs that indicate which towns you are driving toward. Don't forget a sign that directs visitors to our state colleges and universities. Did I forget to mention signs indicating the great historical sites, parks, lakes, and casino's.

We have a chance to do it right, New Jersey. So let's make these signs the "signs of our time". We commend the citizens of New Jersey for making their concerns heard and the DOT for undertaking the challenge.



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Kobe's Defense:

If the Condom Don't Fit, You Must Acquit!

by Lloyd Williams

Ever since OJ, it is no longer enough for America that the black male athlete entertains us on the field of play. No, his private life has also come to be considered fair game as an endless source of ethical amusement.

Living under that type of scrutiny, 24-7, has got to be unbearable, since most of these brothers are just overgrown kids, anyway, acute cases of arrested development. Adored because they can dunk a basketball, throw a punch or hit a baseball better than anyone else in the world, they have never been expected to figure out how to function in society like an average person.

Instead, they've been pampered and coddled, as if the rules don't apply to them. And we see the fallout of this failing in telling statistics like the fact that there are more illegitimate NBA babies than NBA players.

Media-hyped, almost as if felonious flavas of the day, African-American athletes have been subjected to arrest and derision for alleged anti-social behaviors. Just in July alone, Mike Tyson (assault and battery), Jerry Stackhouse (assault), Damon Stoudamire (drug possession), Carlton Dotson (murder), Antwan Stewart (rape) and Chris Webber (criminal contempt) have all had their share of headlines, though only Kobe's sexual assault case figures to be of enduring, OJ proportions.

We know he has wretched representation, because he already made the awful tactical error of admitting that he had sex with his 19 year-old accuser on the night in question. What a faux pas! That's making half the prosecutor's case for him. When have you ever seen a rich and famous defendant fessin' up to anything in a high-profile trial? Never! That's why they drag on for years. You don't see

Martha Stewart or Kenneth Lay owning up to a penny of ill-gotten gains, even though there's undoubtedly a paper trail which recorded every transaction.

Doesn't Kobe's lawyer know that his client is supposed to stonewall like President Clinton did, and wag his finger while sternly announcing that he never had sex with that woman? Why on Earth would any lawyer worth his salt give away such a valuable plea-bargaining chip, so early in the legal process? Trials, after all, are procedural, paper wars of attrition, where the idea is to wear the other side down by making them prove even the most insignificant link in its case. Eventually, Kobe could have pled guilty to a misdemeanor like assault with intent to please and gotten sentenced to servicing the community for another 500 hours.

Instead of wasting money on a make-up ring for his wife,

Bryant should have put that \$4 million to much better use by hiring Johnny Cochran to assemble another dream team. If he were representing Kobe, I guarantee that he wouldn't allow his client to admit donating a drop of sperm. Why not?

Because ultimately, the omnipresence of the defendant's DNA didn't mean a thing in the OJ case, when the gloves didn't fit. So, Johnny might've employed a similar strategy on behalf of Kobe, paraphrasing the slogan that successfully sprang OJ into another ratings-grabbing rallying cry. And after the hushed courtroom watched his tumescent client's futile fumbling with the latex, Cochran would punctuate his summation with the fitting flourish:

"If the condom don't fit, you must acquit!"

Lloyd Williams is an attorney and a member of the bar in NJ, NY, CT, PA & MA.

Jessica Lynch: A Weapon of Mass Distortion

By. George E. Curry

There is no question that U.S. Army Pvt. Jessica Lynch suffered serious injuries in Iraq. Lt. Col. Greg Argyrous, who supervised her three-month recovery at the Walter Reed Medical Center in Washington, D.C., detailed them in a TV appearance on "The Early Show." He said Lynch's injuries included "a fracture of her right upper arm, a fracture of three bones in her back, fracture of her right shoulder blade, two ribs. She fractured her upper and lower left leg, her lower right leg and in addition to multiple fractures in her right foot. She suffered a large laceration of her scalp that was repaired in the Iraqi hospital."

How Lynch suffered those injuries is a story within itself. "She was Fighting to the Death," an April 3 "Washington Post" story by Susan Schmidt and Vernon Loeb, was headlined. It began, "Pfc. Jessica Lynch, rescued Tuesday from an Iraqi hospital, fought fiercely and shot several enemy soldiers after Iraqi forces ambushed the Army's 507th Ordnance Maintenance Company, firing her weapon until she ran out of ammunition. U.S. officials said yesterday."

It continued, "Lynch, a 19-year-old supply clerk, continued firing at the Iraqis even

after she sustained gunshot wounds and watched other soldiers in her unit die around her in fighting March 23, one official said. The ambush took place after a 507th convoy, supporting the advancing 3rd Infantry Division, took a wrong turn near the southern city of Nasiriyah."

The writers said, "Lynch was also stabbed when Iraqi forces closed in on her position, the official said, noting that initial intelligence reports indicated that she had been stabbed to death."

It's a great story. Unfortunately, that's all it is—a story.

An Army investigation of the incident, titled "Attack on the 507th Maintenance Company, 23 March 2003, An Nasiriyah, Iraq," can be found on the Army's Web site (<http://www.army.mil/features/507thMaintCmpy/AttackOnThe507thMaintCmpy.pdf>). It provides no evidence that Lynch had either shot an Iraqi soldier, continued to fire at advancing forces until her weapon ran out of ammunition, or that she was ever stabbed or shot. Rather, her injuries were sustained as a result of her vehicle crashing into another unit vehicle that included Shoshana Johnson, the first African-American female POW.

"At about 0720 hours, the 5-ton tractor-trailer, occupied by SPC [Edgar] Hernandez

and SPC S. Johnson, came under heavy fire," the Army report states. "SPC Hernandez tried to avoid hitting an Iraqi truck blocking the road in front of him and lost control of the vehicle, veering to the right and off the road. To their rear, ISG [Robert] Dowdy, in the HMMWV driven by PFC [Lori] Pietsewa, reached [PFC Patrick] Miller's 5-ton wrecker and ordered him to increase speed and keep moving. The ISG's HMMWV was then hit by direct or indirect fire and crashed at a high rate of speed into the rear of the stopped tractor-trailer, still occupied by SPC Hernandez and SPC S. Johnson."

"There were five Soldiers in ISG Dowdy's vehicle: ISG Dowdy, his driver PFC Pietsewa, and three Soldiers in the back—PFC [Jessica] Lynch, SGT [George] Buggs and PFC [Edward] Anguiano. ISG Dowdy was killed on impact. Pietsewa survived the crash, but was seriously injured and died in captivity. Lynch was also injured and captured. The circumstances of Buggs' and Anguiano's deaths remain under investigation."

Before the Army report was issued, the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) and, later, the "Times" of London, disclosed that the "Washington Post" had published a hyped account of

Lynch's capture that was at odds with the facts, something the "Post" would acknowledge and correct in subsequent stories.

The paper's ombudsman, Michael Getler, told Amy Goodman on her "Democracy Now" radio program that, "...the story should not have been presented in what really did look like a propagandistic-type account."

Speaking with Goodman on that same radio program, Richard Lloyd Perry, a foreign correspondent for the London "Times," said, "When I was in Nasiriyah, this was a week or so ago, I stayed in the General Hospital, principally that's the safest place in town, protected by both Iraqis as well as a small number of American Marines."

Workers interviewed by Perry said, "There was no resistance at the hospital. The Iraqi soldiers and commanders who had been there, had fled several hours before—really the day before, so these special forces didn't have to fight their way in at all."

None of this hype was Lynch's fault; she deserves our prayers and concerns. So does Shoshana Johnson. And that also goes for the families of the 11 soldiers killed in combat that night.

In war, as we're seeing again, truth becomes the first casualty.

BUSINESS EXCHANGE

IS THE BLACK MIDDLE-CLASS DECLINING?

Many Black Workers Are Two Weeks Away From Poverty

"That great sucking sound you hear are American jobs going South."

- Ross Perot, 1992

By William Reed

Are you better off now than you were five years ago? If you are among the 49 percent of Blacks that are classified as middle-class due to jobs and status, things may be changing, and not for the better.

During the 1990s lots of Black people stepped up to middle-class lifestyles. In the Go-Go 90s, the Black middle class was the fastest growing and largest segment within the Black community. Average household income for African-American families rose 1.1 percent annually, about double the average rate of increase for white households. Blacks were living large; earning an average \$31,778 household income, and enjoying a 32.5 percent increase in their purchasing power. In the 90s, poor Black people were shrinking, the African-American poverty rate decreased to 26.1 percent.

These days, good jobs for Blacks are becoming harder to come by. Good-paying jobs are going outside America's borders and unemployment among Blacks is rising at a faster pace than in any similar period since the mid-1970's. Jobs are being lost mainly in the manufacturing sector, where pay for Blacks has historically been higher than in other sectors. Overall unemployment is at its highest rate in nine years. Nearly 2.6 million American jobs have disappeared during the last 28 months; with 90 percent of those jobs being lost in manufacturing and, of course, Black Americans being hit disproportionately harder than whites.

Manufacturing, once concentrated in the Midwest and Northeast, has spread across every state as companies migrated to lower-wage towns and cities. Now, increasing numbers of these companies are migrating again, this time overseas in search of yet lower labor costs, manufacturing job loss has intensified. During the last three years, every U.S. state has lost manufacturing jobs. Manufacturing employment decreased by 56,000 in June, with primary metals, fabricated metal products, machinery, and plastics and rubber products each losing about 6,000 jobs. Employment in textile mills and leather products manufacturing also declined in June, continuing their long-term downward trends.

In 2000, there were 2 million black Americans working in factory jobs, or 10.1 percent of the nation's 20 million manufacturing workers. Then came the March 2001 recession; since then, 300,000 factory jobs held by Blacks have disappeared. White workers lost many factory jobs too; but because they were much more numerous to begin with, proportionally their damage is less.

Over the past three months, nearly a million more people have been added to unemployment rolls. In June 2003, the national unemployment rate was 6.4 percent, up 0.3 percent from May, the highest rate in nine years. The overall unemployment rate for Blacks was 11.8 percent, with African-American men leading the pack at 11.3 percent. The rate for Black women was 9.7 percent. Low-wage workers and women who went from welfare to work in the 1990's have largely kept their jobs; factory breadwinners have borne the pain, men and women alike. (These estimates do not include millions of disaffected workers who've exhausted unemployment benefits and are no longer listed on labor rolls.)

The number and types of jobs that have been lost are severely diminishing the standing of many Blacks in the middle class. And, this seems unlike the cyclical downturns in days of old, when workers got furloughed for a few weeks and then recalled. These jobs are gone, and that represents a potentially significant slide in Black middle-class income and living standards.



ING Survey finds African-American CEOs optimistic on economy

By Cynthia Post
Special to the NNPA from the
Atlanta Daily World

ATLANTA (NNPA) — According to a recent national survey, 47 percent of African-American CEOs expect to increase hiring in the next three months, despite the conflict in Iraq and its negative impact on short-term economic confidence, and with the long-term economic outlook still uncertain.

The findings are important to business owners and consumers, because they show trends that will be helpful in making short and long-term economic-based business decisions.

"African-American CEOs have short-term lack of economic confidence, yet feel optimistic about long-term economic outlook, including employment," said Dana Ripley, director of external communications for ING.

The findings are the results of the first-quarter ING Gazelle Index, a national survey of CEOs from some of the nation's fastest-growing African-American-owned businesses on their outlook on business and the economy. ING U.S. Financial Services offers products and services, including mutual funds; fixed and variable annuities; retirement programs; employee benefits; life insurance; and trust services.

According to the economic census data, there are more than 880,000 African-American business owners in the United States, up 46 percent over a five-year period. Majority-owned firms have grown only 24 percent during the same period.

Two local African-American CEOs are excited and optimistic about the future of their businesses. New leadership and evolving strategies are credited with the continued growth of Turner Associates/Architects and Planners, Inc.

"Our strategy for success is continuing to look for the talented, the best and brightest, out there," said Oscar Harris, founder and CEO of Turner Associates.

"We focus on our clients and the relationships with them. We work to solidify those relationships."

Harris founded Turner Associates in 1977 as a one-person, African-American-owned architecture firm based in Atlanta. Over the past 25 years, it has evolved into a full-service architectural and planning company to become one

of the most successful design firms in the Southeast, with more than \$3 billion in construction.

Similarly, building on its reputation as a partner with the communities it serves has propelled JLW Development LLC to one of the fastest-growing African-American-owned builders in Atlanta.

"Particularly in our industry, we have seen a resurgence in the market of single family homes," said Robb Jones, director of business development/marketing of JLW Development. "We have remained strong throughout the recession."

"We adjusted and adapted to the market by building smaller homes so as to decrease price points to accom-

"We want to work to improve and revitalize these communities as a team. Our core values are to maintain our integrity, and create homeownership and community pride."

modate what buyers can afford," he continued. "We remain optimistic because of Atlanta's steady growth, low interest rates, and urban sprawl has allowed for a number of former suburban residents to move back inside the perimeter."

Founded in 1999, JLW Development is on track to build 50 homes this year. JLW has built 30 homes in in-town neighborhoods, including Summerhill, Reynoldstown and Vine City. JLW Development will soon break ground on "The Village at Pittsburgh," an eight-home project.

"We want to grow in a smart way by remaining aggressive but not become blinded by our potential to grow beyond our internal infrastructure and capacity to build," said Jones. "As community builders, our purpose is to align ourselves with the community as well as city government."

"We want to work to improve and revitalize these communities as a team," he continued. "Our core values are to maintain our integrity, and create homeownership and community pride."

To review the full report, visit www.INGGazelleIndex.com.

FAO Schwartz characters visit patients at St. Joseph's

PATERSON — Pediatrics patients at St. Joseph's Children's Hospital in Paterson were recently treated to a fun-filled visit by Raggedy Ann and The Toy Soldier sponsored by FAO Schwartz Toys, The Ultimate Toy Store. The entertaining costumed characters spent time reading to the hospital's young patients.



St. Joseph's Children's Hospital is a state-designated children's hospital providing specialized medical and surgical services to treat ill and injured children from newborn to adolescent years with the most technically advanced compassionate care available today.

HELP WANTED: VOLUNTEERS

Paterson: St. Joseph's Regional Medical Center (SJRMC) is presently seeking volunteers to fill openings in the hospital's Gift Shop and Surgical Waiting Room.

On-site training is provided for all volunteers at St. Joseph's Regional Medical Center. If you are interested in either the Gift Shop or Surgical Waiting Room Liaison positions or wish to receive more information about other volunteer opportunities at SJRMC, please call 73.754.2970.

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City News takes a look at
the health issues on the minds
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special section titled

"Heartbeat."

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City of Newark heat preparedness taskforce issues hot weather tips

With the advent of summer's hot and humid weather, the City of Newark's Heat Wave Preparedness Task Force today issued a citizen's hot weather tips alert list regarding hot weather precautions. The Task Force advises residents to stay in the coolest environment available and use air-conditioners when the heat index reaches 95 and above. If there is no air conditioning at home, they advise spending time in air-conditioned public places, such as movie theaters, malls, libraries, and senior centers.

Newark Health and Human Services Director Catherine Cuomo-Cecere said, "Neighbors, friends or relatives of persons who are at special risk for heat illness should check on these individuals and encourage them to move to safe air-conditioned quarters. The elderly may not realize that they are affected by the heat and should be watched for any signs of heat exhaustion."

The task force further advises residents to do the following:

- * increase liquid intake, especially water and Gatorade, even if you are not thirsty. (Caution: individuals with heart disease should consult a physician).
- * seek a cool area with a fan or air conditioning in which to rest.
- * wear thin loose clothing.
- * take frequent cool baths or showers.
- * avoid caffeine and alcohol.
- * avoid exposure to direct sunlight whenever possible.
- * avoid strenuous physical activity.
- * stay indoors between 12 noon and 4:00 p.m. which is the hottest part of the day.
- * seek emergency medical care or dial 911 when experiencing any of the following: excessive unquenchable thirst; nausea; vomiting; loss of appetite; headache; slurred speech; muscular coordination; impaired judgment; cramps; confusion; weakness; fatigue; faintness; agitation or hyperventilation.

According to the Center for Environmental Health, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, hot weather can be dangerous to your health and can endanger your life. When temperatures reach 90 degrees or more with humidity of 67 percent greater for three consecutive days, it is considered a heat wave.

Mayor Sharpe James said, "As the temperature rises, it gets extremely uncomfortable. All senior citizens should make themselves comfortable and spend time in our Newark Senior Citizen Centers," the Mayor added.

The task force consists of the Office of the Business Administrator, Newark Office of Emergency Management, the Department of Health and Human Services, the Newark office of Public Information, the Newark Police Department and the Essex County Red Cross.

If residents have any questions regarding hot weather precautions, they may contact the Newark Department of Health and Human Services at: (973)733-7592 from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday - Friday.

Health Briefs

STUDY: OF ANIMAL FATS LINKED WITH BREAST CANCER

Young women who eat more red meat and full-fat dairy products such as cheese may be raising their risk of breast cancer, researchers reported recently. Women most at risk of breast cancer obtained, on average, 23 percent of calories from animal fat, versus 12 percent in the lowest-risk group.

Vegetable fats such as olive oil did not affect a woman's risk. "We found that it was not total fat but certain types of fat that was related to breast cancer risk," Eunyoung Cho of Brigham and Women's Hospital and Harvard Medical School said. "Overall, we observed that there was a higher risk of breast cancer among women who ate foods rich in animal fat such as red meat, cheese, ice cream and butter during their 20s, 30s and 40s," Cho said.

HEALTH OFFICIALS PUSH FRUITS, VEGGIES TO REDUCE DISEASE AMONG BLACK

Health experts struggling to lower disease rates among black men are promoting a simple preventative strategy: Eat more fruits and vegetables.

Compared to other groups, black men suffer at high rates from numerous deadly conditions including cancers, heart disease, high blood pressure, obesity and diabetes. Dr. Terry Mason, chief of urology at Mercy Hospital in Chicago, is among physicians promoting a new federal campaign that encourages black men to eat nine portions of fruit and vegetables each day.

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SATURDAY AFTERNOON GROOVE AT AUDI SAVOY UNWRAPPED

More than 3000 jazz lovers packed the PAC last Saturday to lay back and enjoy the mellow sounds of jazz greats Joe Sample, Alex Bugnon, Maysa and Rachelle Ferrell. Crowds mingled both inside and out enjoying the music, food, networking, browsing SAVOY magazine and examining the new 2004 Audi lineup. Audi SAVOY was produced by Allen and Partners, Inc. *Photos by Tony Graves*



L-R: Len Burnett, SAVOY magazine, Monica Jarvis & Mary Ann Wilson, AUDI, Gary Lewis, SAVOY, Kelly Lodish & Lee King, AUDI, Keith Harvey, ABSOLUT vodka.



Saxophonist Mike Phillips interacts with the crowd at NJPAC at the Audi Savoy Jazz Unwrapped Music festival



Maysa and Alex Bugnon



Rachelle Ferrell



Carla Cook

Kam's Kapsules

BIG BUDGET FILMS

American Wedding (R for sex, profanity and crude humor) American Pie 3. Jim (Jason Biggs) and Michelle (Alyson Hannigan) are ready to marry, but not before a hedonistic bachelor party thrown by pal Stifler (Seann William Scott) and another awkward father-son moment with his sermonizing dad (Eugene Levy).

Gigli (R for pervasive profanity and brief graphic violence) J-Lo and beau Ben-Lo's coming out party is a crime drama where they play a couple of hit persons assigned by the mob to kidnap the retarded brother of a powerful district attorney.

INDEPENDENT & FOREIGN FILMS

And Now Ladies and Gentlemen (PG-13 for brief profanity) Romantic thriller with Jeremy Irons as a British jewel thief who yachts to Morocco where he falls in love with a French chanteuse (Jane Lester) only to discover that they both suffer from inexplicable blackouts. (In French, Arabic, Italian and English with subtitles)

Boys Life 4: Four Play (Unrated) Quartet of homosexual-themed short films exploring such subjects as gay bashing, gay dating, gay marriage and the gay lifestyle.

I'll Be There (PG-13 for drug references, sexual humor, nudity and profanity) Musical comedy about an aging rock star who learns he has a teenage daughter. Inspired by the real-life story of Liv and Aerosmith's Steven Tyler.

The Magdalene Sisters (R for cruelty, violence, nudity, sex and expletives) True tale, set in Ireland in 1964, about four wayward young women committed to a convent of sadistic nuns who strip them of their individuality by forcing them to work for free in a laundry, 7 days a week.

Khan returns to Crossroads and New Season

Continued from page 1

key steps towards the re-stabilization of the Crossroads organization.

"I am so pleased to be returning home to Crossroads for this special anniversary season," said Khan, "especially given the invaluable support of the Kennedy Center, and the new management model that is now in place for Crossroads Theatre Company. I am personally looking forward to being able to focus on the art that is on stage and the excitement, passion and pride that I want our audiences to once again enjoy."

This fall Crossroads Theatre Company will mark its 25th birthday with Khan once again at the artistic helm responsible for selecting and overseeing the plays and artists. In developing the season, Khan has selected four plays of cultures from North America, the West Indies and Africa, three of which are brand new plays. They include: Color Me Dark, Late Great Ladies of Blues and Jazz, Walking With Ijapa, and MANDELA!

The opening play, Color Me Dark, was adapted by Jerome Hairston from the novel by Patricia C. McKissack. Part of the "Dear America" series by Scholastic books, it was origi-

nally commissioned by the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts. As told from the eyes of a 14 year-old African-American girl, this is the diary of Nellie Lee Love and the journey of her family from Bradford Corners, Tennessee, to Chicago in 1919 during the great migration North. Color Me Dark is a touching story of young sisters holding onto each other during changing times in America, and of the love, strength and importance of family.

In December, Crossroads joyously celebrates the homecoming of Sandra Reaves-Phillips in Late Great Ladies of Blues and Jazz, the musical which was a hit for Crossroads in the late 80's and has been a sensation all over the world ever since. The fabulous Sandra Reaves-Phillips, who is backed up by five extraordinary musicians, recreates the essences of six one-of-a-kind women: Bessie Smith, Ma Rainey, Ethel Waters, Billie Holiday, Dinah Washington, and Mahalia Jackson. These are women who, like Sandra, put their hearts and souls into song.

In February, famed American actor Ossie Davis returns to Crossroads with one of the Caribbean's most noted storytellers Paul Keens-

Douglas. The two team up to share tales, fables, music and comedy from the folklore of the West Indies, North America and West Africa. Currently working under the title Walking With Ijapa, the play will include their own original works as well as works from Zora Neale Hurston, Paul Lawrence Dunbar and Ruby Dee. Both Ossie Davis and Ruby Dee have been long time supporters of Crossroads and in residence often as artists.

In celebration of South Africa's greatest son and the tenth anniversary of the new South Africa, the Crossroads Theatre Company season will conclude with MANDELA! Written by Duma Ndlovu and Steve Fisher, this dramatic/musical presentation of former South African President Nelson Mandela's life is a hybrid of original contemporary "musical" forms and traditional South African folk music and storytelling. MANDELA! has been in development for five years and had its first public reading at Crossroads' Genesis Festival in 2000. Prior to the production's upcoming world premiere in South Africa in July 2004 under the direction of Ricardo Khan, MANDELA! will be presented in musical oratorio style on the stage that gave

the play its start, Crossroads.

In announcing the four-play season, Khan was delighted that Crossroads will once again be producing a season of mostly premieres- "reminiscent of the 'old days' at Crossroads!"

From 1978 to 1999 Khan led the Company on an artistic journey that brought national acclaim and prestige both to Crossroads Theatre Company and New Jersey. During Khan's last season at Crossroads, the company won the Tony Award for Best Regional Theater in the United States.

Khan left Crossroads Theatre Company in 1999 and was on sabbatical in his father's homeland of Trinidad working and teaching through the Ministry of Culture there for much of 2000. Upon completion of his sabbatical, Ricardo began working as a freelance director in New York, at the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C. and in Johannesburg, South Africa.

"The work I have been engaged in with other theaters and in other cultures and countries since I left Crossroads nearly four years ago has re-awakened in me a creative spirit I had not felt in a long while. I look forward to bringing some of that spirit and creative celebration to the Crossroads family."

In response to the announcement by Crossroads Theatre Company, Jean Holtz, spokesperson for New Brunswick Cultural Center (NBCC), noted that "The Cultural Center is anxious for Crossroads Theatre Company to renew its presence as an essential component of the New Brunswick arts scene. We will be working closely with the Theatre Company to ensure a successful twenty-fifth anniversary season."

NBCC is the nonprofit organization that oversees the evolution, improvement, and expansion of the downtown cultural and entertainment district. In addition to the season planned by Crossroads Theatre Company, NBCC, in cooperation with the State Theatre Regional Performing Arts Center, other theatre companies, arts presenters, community organizations, and commercial promoters, has also planned diverse programming in Crossroads Theatre through June 2004 in an effort to maintain a healthy and vibrant cultural scene in downtown New Brunswick.

Bringing Down The House

Steve Martin and Queen Latifah in Bringing Down The House. Hilarious comedy smash arrives on DVD and VHS August 5



BURBANK, CA — Touchstone Home Entertainment presents the \$125 million dollar box office hit BRINGING DOWN THE HOUSE, starring wild and crazy Steve Martin ("Bowfinger," "Father of the Bride") and Oscar® nominee Queen Latifah (nominated Best Supporting Actress, 2002, "Chicago"), available to own on DVD and VHS on August 5. The #1 comedy of the year mis-matches a straight-laced attorney and a loud-mouthed prison escapee in a blind date that goes hilariously wrong. BRINGING DOWN THE HOUSE also stars Eugene Levy ("American Pie," "Best In Show"), Jean Smart ("Sweet Home Alabama"), Joan Plowright ("101 Dalmatians") and Betty White (TV's "Golden Girls").

In BRINGING DOWN THE HOUSE, Steve Martin plays uptight attorney Peter Sanderson, who upon meeting a dream-girl attorney online, invites her to his house where she turns out to be the outrageous Charlene (Queen Latifah), an escaped convict who hilariously spins Peter's life out of control. Juggling his estranged wife (Jean Smart), his best client (Joan Plowright) and his sanity, Peter helps Charlene prove her innocence while she helps him re-discover life outside of attorney-hood. Eugene Levy plays Howie, Peter's best friend, who finds himself curiously attracted to Peter's unwanted houseguest.

Rated PG-13 for language, sexual humor and drug material.

DELIVER US FROM EVA

Multi Platinum Hip Hop Artist L.L. Cool J. and Gabrielle Union Lead Audiences Into Temptation When...

DELIVER US FROM EVA
Delivers Big Laughs on DVD and VHS



Universal City, CA — Hip-hop phenomenon L.L. Cool J. and Gabrielle Union heat up the screen and deliver big laughs when Deliver Us From Eva a romantic comedy that "delivers the goods" (Kevin Thomas, LA Times), arrives on DVD and VHS June 17, 2003, from Universal Studios Home Video. Hailed as "hip, sexy and packed with laughs" (Shawn Edwards, Fox TV), Deliver Us From Eva, tells the story of a smooth-talking, ultra suave ladies' man (L.L. Cool J.) who falls head over heels with the lovely lady he has been hired to love and leave (Gabrielle Union).

Rapper-actor L.L. Cool J. has effortlessly segued to hit movies (Charlie's Angels, Any Given Sunday) from a multi-platinum music career, having sold over 7.6 Million albums. Deliver Us From Eva finds him matching wits and hearts with rising star Gabrielle Union (Bring It On; Cradle 2 the Grave, Bad Boys II) in a fresh, funny modern take on "Taming of the Shrew," co-written and directed by Gary Hardwick (The Brothers).

The film also features a top-flight cast of skilled farceurs including Essence Atkins (Half and Half and How High), Robinne Lee (National Security) and Meagan Good (Biker Boyz) as Eva's winsome sisters, as well as Duane Martin (Any Given Sunday), Mel Jackson (Soul Food), and Dartanian Edwards (Bulworth) as their suitors who will do anything to stop Eva from interfering in their love lives.

The Bad Boys' Good Girl

The Bad Boys II Interview with Kam Williams

Shooting star Gabrielle Union skyrocketed to the heights of Hollywood fame in just a few short years. She got her start in 1999 in a couple of hit teenploitation flicks, namely 10 Things I Hate about You and She's All That. The next year, the Omaha, Nebraska native followed-up those debut appearances with memorable performances in Bring It On and Love & Basketball. In 2001, she starred in The Brothers and Two Can Play That Game, and she's made seven more movies since, most notably handling the title role in Deliver Us From Eva.

Now this busiest of black actresses is in the nation's #1 movie, Bad Boys II, where she plays Will Smith's love interest and Martin Lawrence's little sister. As you might expect, the septa beauty had some interesting things to say about working on the project.

KW: Bad Boys II crosses a line over into what some might say is bad taste several times. Did seeing the actual movie on the screen shock you at all?

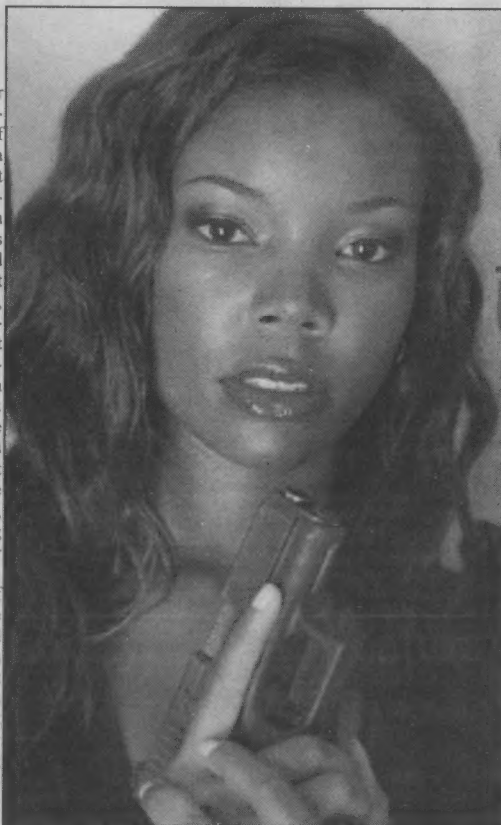
GU: "Yeah, there were a couple scenes where I found myself literally ducking in my seat. For instance, I was a little shocked at the decapitation. It wasn't on the page. When you read 'car crash' in the script, you don't anticipate a head rolling down the street. Most of my scenes weren't gory, so a lot of it was surprising to me."

KW: How do you feel being a part of a production this gross?

GU: "This isn't what I'd take my child to, but who I am to legislate morality in anyone else's family. But for the younger kids in mind, it's a resounding, 'Hell no!' I just don't think it's appropriate for anyone under 15. People become so desensitized to violence, it's scary. God, I wish it was different, but this obviously is what people find entertaining."

KW: What about Martin Lawrence character's accidental use of Ecstasy in the film?

GU: "It's hard when you're going for the joke to know when you're crossing a line. I guess if you're an avid drug user, you think it's funny. But if you see Ecstasy, as I do, as a dangerous drug, then it's



I didn't bring my glasses today? Probably not."

KW: So, what happened?

GU: "I got behind the wheel and immediately started shaking, which, thank God, worked for the character. I could tell at the screening, that he used some of the first take, where my eyes are welling up and I'm scared. All of my, 'Jesus! Jesus! Jesus!' is real, because there's a stunt guy hanging off the window that I'm fighting with while I'm driving at top speed on this off-ramp. By the end I was crying, and I figured that most DEA agents probably don't have tears after car chases, so I knew we were going to have to shoot it again."

KW: Was it hard working with a couple of constantly cutting-up comedians like Will and Martin?

GU: "I kinda fit right in because I have as sick a sense of humor as they do. I

can joke and laugh, and if we're out at a bar, I'm drinking right along with them. When they started clowning, I was clowning right back.

Those five months became a blur of just side-splitting laughter. On the set when we weren't supposed to be laughing, hanging out later off the set. I've never laughed so hard, so consistently for such a long period of time."

KW: Did you know when you were making Bring It On that it was going to be your breakout role?

GU: "No. It's funny, because Bring It On was the movie we all took because we didn't get the roles we really wanted. As we were filming, we were thinking, 'Ugh, this is going to be a bomb.' No one really had high expectations, and we had a lot of fun because there wasn't that much pressure. And the studio left us alone, since it wasn't a big budget film."

There weren't eight suits showing up asking, 'Are you on budget?' At the time, I thought that the role in Sugar and Spice was the one that got away, that that was the cheer-leading movie that I should have done. Until Bring It on came out and each week we were #1, it was like, 'Whoa!' And kids on the street would yell at me, 'Isis, you better bring it, bitch!'"

KW: I know that director Michael Bay, in going for a realistic look, decided against relying on computer-generated effects for this movie. Did you do your own stunt driving?

GU: "Yes I did and I didn't want to."

KW: Will Smith said he sort of got tricked into it, too. Did you at least get some training for it?

GU: "No, you would've thought that there would be some stunt driver training. But, no. I showed up one day, thinking this car would be hooked to a tow, and that it would be a nice, safe environment where I would just act really scared. But Michael said, 'A tow? Bleep a tow. This a bleeping action movie. This is what you bleeping signed up for. Get behind the wheel.' He hopped into the back seat and I'm asking myself, 'Is this a good time to tell him that I have depth perception problems and that

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PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

Notice of Availability Port Imperial Intermodal Ferry Terminal Environmental Assessment

Notice is hereby given that the Environmental Assessment (EA) for the Port Imperial Inter-modal Ferry Terminal is being made available for public review and comment. This document examines the social-economic, transportation, and environmental impacts associated with relocation of the existing New York Waterway ferry operation from its current location near Pershing Road to a new terminal to be constructed by NJ TRANSIT approximately 1,500 feet to the north. The new terminal will provide opportunities for transfers between the ferry and a new station of the Hudson-Bergen Light Rail Transit system now under construction in Weehawken, New Jersey. The alternatives examined in the EA included the "No Build Alternative" and a "Build" alternative incorporating designs for the terminal structure, supporting marine platform, estuary garden, waterfront pedestrian walkway, and dredging and disposal alternatives. Alternative locations for the siting of the terminal, including uplands sites, were examined. The EA also documents the work undertaken to comply with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. Section 106 work identifies historic properties, assesses their eligibility for listing in the National Register of Historic Places, evaluates the impact of the alternatives under consideration on eligible or listed properties, and considers alternatives to avoid or minimize any adverse effects.

A. Description of Proposed Relocation of the Ferry Terminal:

The US Federal Highway Administration, New Jersey Department of Transportation and NJ TRANSIT are proposing to construct a new state-of-the-art inter-modal ferry terminal in Weehawken, Hudson County, New Jersey. The proposed action is to relocate, approximately 1,500 feet north, the existing ferry terminal facility and operations to a new terminal facility, situated to link the ferry service with the northernmost waterfront station of the Hudson-Bergen Light Rail Transit now under construction.

This ferry project is included in the Port Imperial South development plan and adds critical capacity to the over-subscribed traps-Hudson public transportation network. With the absence of PATH service to lower Manhattan since September 11, 2001, commuters have had fewer transit options and have been experiencing greater congestion on existing bus and rail lines to Manhattan. Ferry service has emerged as a viable option because it addresses the lack of capacity without requiring costly new rail lines or roads, and provides reliable service largely unaffected by traffic congestion or rail system delays. Also, ferry services can be implemented quickly and can be built up incrementally based on demand.

Key project elements include:

- Construction of a terminal;
- Construction of the platform to support the terminal;
- Installation of vessel mooring facilities for loading and unloading passengers (floats, docks and ramps);
- Dredging of 150,000 cubic yards on Hudson River sediment with upland management of sediments; and
- Creation of wetland/estuary garden.

This project will require permits from the Army Corps of Engineers and NJ Department of Environmental Protection.

B. Environmental Assessment Availability

The Environmental Assessment is available at the following locations for your review:

New Jersey Transit Corporate Headquarters
 One Penn Plaza East
 Newark, New Jersey 07105-2246
 Contact: Steven M. Jurow
 Senior Director, Environmental Services
 Telephone: (973) 491-7210

NJ Department of Transportation
 1035 Parkway Avenue
 Ewing, NJ 08625-0600
 Contact: Richard J. Gimello
 Director, Maritime Resources
 Telephone: (609) 538-4913

US Department of Transportation
 Federal Highway Administration
 840 Bear Tavern Road, Suite 310
 West Trenton, NJ 08628-1019

Contact: David Hawk, Program Operations Director
 Telephone: (609) 637-4213

Additional Locations:

- Township of Weehawken, Public Library; 49 Hauxhurst Avenue, Weehawken, NJ
- Hudson County Administration Building, 595 Newark Avenue, Jersey City, NJ
- Weehawken Municipal Building, 400 Park Avenue, Weehawken, NJ

NJ TRANSIT will hold a public hearing during the official 30-day comment period. A Spanish-speaking translator will be present at the public hearing to answer any questions and/or receive comments on the project. All public comment is important and is welcomed until the close of the comment period on August 26, 2003. The public hearing will be held on:

DATE: August 11, 2003
TIME: 3:00 PM - 5:00 PM and from 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM
LOCATION: Sheraton Suites at Lincoln Harbor
 500 Harbor Boulevard
 Weehawken, New Jersey

If the allotted time is not sufficient to accommodate all public comments, the hearing will be extended until all commentators have been heard.

Any written comments on the Environmental Assessment should be sent to: Mr. David Hawk, Program Operations Director, Federal Highway Administration, at the above address. All written comments should be legible and include your name (individual and/or organization) and address. Comments may be sent by e-mail to ferryterminal@njtransit.com for receipt no later than midnight August 26, 2003.

Your interest and assistance in this review are greatly appreciated. Should you require special accommodations or require sign language interpreters or have any questions, please contact Mr. Jurow at (973) 491-7210.

George D. Warrington
 Executive Director
 New Jersey Transit Corporation
 \$83.47

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

Notice of Availability of Supplemental Draft EIS Newark-Elizabeth Rail Link Project - Elizabeth Segment

Notice is hereby given that the Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement (SDEIS) for the proposed Newark Elizabeth Rail Link (NERL) - Elizabeth Segment is being made available for public review and comment. This document is a supplement to the 1997 NERL DEIS, and examines a modified alignment of portions of the NERL Third Operating Segment (MOS-3) in the City of Elizabeth to better serve emerging and anticipated future development and to provide direct rail linkages between these development sites and the region's core public transportation network.

A. Project Background

A draft EIS for the overall NERL project was prepared and approved by the Federal Transit Administration in 1997. The preferred alternative identified in the 1997 DEIS was an 8.8-mile light rail transit (LRT) system with 16 stations linking the central business districts of Newark and Elizabeth, New Jersey. The full line is proposed to be constructed in three minimum operable segments: MOS-1, a one-mile connection between the Broad Street Station and Newark Penn Station in downtown Newark; MOS-2, a one-mile segment from Newark Penn Station in downtown Newark to Camp Street in south Newark; and MOS-3, a seven-mile LRT segment from Camp Street in south Newark to Elizabeth, with a station at Newark Liberty International Airport.

A final EIS (FEIS) was published for NERL MOS-1 in August 1998 and a Record of Decision (ROD) was issued in November 1998. NERL MOS-1 is currently under construction. Following approval of the 1997 DEIS, Union County proposed a modification of the Elizabeth Segment of the original MOS-3. The alignment has been modified to complement and better serve extensive commercial and retail development in the Elizabethport section of Elizabeth. Since the modified alignment has the potential to result in environmental impacts that were not identified in the 1997 DEIS, the subject SDEIS document supplements the findings of the 1997 NERL DEIS by fully evaluating the modified portion of MOS-3.

B. Description of Proposed NERL MOS-3 alignment modification:

The modified Newark Elizabeth Rail Link - Elizabeth Segment would consist of a 5.8-mile Light Rail Transit (LRT) system beginning at Midtown Elizabeth and terminating at Newark Liberty International Airport Monorail Parking Lot D. The project consists of the following:

- A predominantly double-track LRT system using an overhead electric power contact system running over a portion of the partially-used freight right-of-way owned by Conrail, CSX, and Norfolk Southern, between the Northeast Corridor and the New Jersey Gardens Mall, and over newly developed right-of-way from this point to Newark Liberty International Airport;
- Nine stations and provision for one future station;
- An LRT storage and maintenance facility to be located at the corner of Veterans Memorial Drive and Trumbull Street; and
- Various new bridge structures associated with the LRT system and structures necessary to maintain existing freight rail traffic.

C. Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement Availability

The Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement is available at the following locations for your review:

New Jersey Transit Corporate Headquarters
 One Penn Plaza East
 Newark, New Jersey 07105-2246
 Contact: Steven M. Jurow
 Senior Director, Environmental Services
 Telephone: (973) 491-7210

U.S. Department of Transportation
 Federal Transit Administration, Region II
 One Bowling Green, Room 429
 New York, New York 10004-1415
 Contact: Irwin B. Kessman
 Director, Office of Planning & Program Development
 Telephone: (212) 668-2170

Additional Locations:

- City of Elizabeth, Public Library, 11 Broad Street, Elizabeth, NJ
- Union County Administration Building, County Administrator's Office, Elizabethtown Plaza, Elizabeth, NJ
- Elizabeth City Hall, 50 Winfield Scott Plaza, Elizabeth, NJ

NJ TRANSIT will be holding a public hearing during the official 45-day comment period. A Spanish-speaking translator will be present at the public hearing to answer any questions and/or receive comments on the project. All public comment is important and is welcomed until the close of the comment period on September 8, 2003. The public hearing will be held on:

DATE: August 19, 2003
TIME: 3:00 PM - 5:00 PM and from 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM
LOCATION: City of Elizabeth Council Chambers
 50 Winfield Scott Plaza, 3rd Floor
 Elizabeth, New Jersey

If the allotted time is not sufficient to accommodate all public comments, the hearing will be extended until all commentators have been heard.

Any written comments on the Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement should be sent to: Mr. Steven M. Jurow, Senior Director, Environmental Services at the above address. All written comments should be legible and include your name (individual and/or organization) and address. Comments may be sent by e-mail to newark-elizabeth@njtransit.com for receipt no later than midnight, September 8, 2003.

Your interest and assistance in this review are greatly appreciated. Should you require special accommodations or require sign language interpreters or have any questions, please contact Mr. Jurow at (973) 491-7210.

George D. Warrington
 Executive Director
 New Jersey Transit Corporation
 \$77.17

LEGAL NOTICE

ASBURY PARK HOUSING AUTHORITY

REPAVE PARKING LOTS AND RECREATION AREAS:

THE DATE FOR SUBMITTING THIS BID/PROPOSAL HAS BEEN EXTENDED TO AUGUST 22, 2003.

The Asbury Park Public Housing Authority invites qualified licensed contractor to submit their proposals for black top repaving at various Housing Authority sites. Interested contractors should call Geoffrey Melvin, Maintenance Supervisor at 732/774-2680 ext. 19 or Tyrone Laws at ext. 49 for an appointment to pick up specifications package, inspect the sites and get details of the scope, and specifications of required repairs. Bid responses will be accepted through August 22, 2003 12:00 p.m. at the Asbury Park Public Housing Authority, 1000 1/2 Third Avenue, Asbury Park, NJ 07712. ALL BIDS MUST BE MAILED OR HAND DELIVERED, AN ORIGINAL AND 10 COPIES. FAXED OR EMAIL BIDS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.

Harold A. Phipps, M.B.A., P.I.M.
 Executive Director

\$18.90

NJ TRANSIT PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the public that the New Jersey Transit Corporation (NJ TRANSIT) is in the process of reviewing its anticipated federally funded contracting activities for fiscal year 2004. Pursuant to US DOT Regulations 49CFR Part 26, NJ TRANSIT is required to establish a Race Neutral, and Race Conscious Disadvantaged Business Enterprise Program Goals. These goals will be based upon projected contracting and leasing opportunities, availability of eligible ready, willing and able Disadvantaged Business Enterprises, past contracting and leasing results, and local market evidence.

Proposed GOAL

An 25% overall agency goal not more than 25% is anticipated for Disadvantaged Business Enterprise participation, which could include a targeted level goal up to 4% for Race Neutral Program, and up to 21% goal for a Race Conscious Program. Your comments on the overall proposed goal is encouraged and will be used for information purposes to develop the final established goal. The public may review, comment, and assist NJ TRANSIT in the finalization of the establishment of the FY04 goal. The methodology used to determine the final level of DBE participation will be available for public inspection during normal working hours, 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday at NJ TRANSIT, Small Disadvantaged Business Department, One Penn Plaza East, Newark, New Jersey 07105-2246.

The Federal Transit Administration and NJ TRANSIT will accept comments on the goal for forty-five (45) days from the date of this notice. Inquiries may be directed to NJ TRANSIT's Small Business Development Programs, One Penn Plaza East, Newark, New Jersey 07105-2246.

George D. Warrington
 Executive Director
 New Jersey Transit Corporation
 One Penn Plaza East, Newark, NJ 07105-2246
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Calendar

Community

Project Re-Direct/Youth & Family Services is looking for people who are interested in becoming a child's mentor. For more info call Sharon D. Berry at 1-888-868-9697.

THURSDAYS

Newark — Newark Downtown District will host Common Greens Farmer's Market from 11:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. in Military Park. For more info call 973-733-9333.

THURSDAY, JULY 31

Mahwah — 'Jungle Book 2' - Free Family Fun Nights with Movies in the Parks at 8:00 pm. Free event with a G-rated movie at Campgaw Ski Area. For directions go to www.skicampgaw.com/directions.html

ONGOING — AUGUST 1

Newark — Newark Pop Warner Football League is taking applications for players & cheerleaders. FREE Program. Only open to Newark residents, with health insurance & passing grades in school. For more info call 973-733-5357 or 973-733-6454.

New York — Welcome Mat Workshop, a drama camp for kids 8-13 continues from 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. at the Morris-Jumel Mansion. Admission is free but registration is required. For more info call 212-923-8008.

ONGOING — AUGUST 6

Brooklyn — Plants of the World, explore the world and discover how different cultures use plants found at the Brooklyn Botanic Garden from 8:00am - 6:00am. For tickets and more info call 718-623-7200.

AUGUST 1 — 25

Hillside — 2003 Teen Arts Exhibit. This event is open to the public. Hillside Municipal Building, corner of Hillside & Liberty Aves. For time & additional info call 908-558-2550.

AUGUST 4 — 8

Madison — SuperTennis. A tennis day camp for boys & girls ages 5-17. The camp is open for juniors of all levels, from beginners through advanced players. For more info call 973-408-3115.

Newark — Scarlet Raiders Boys Summer Basketball Camp - 2nd Session. For more info call Joe Loughran at 973-353-5474 ext. 223.

TUESDAY, AUGUST 5

Elizabeth — National Night Out. Join Mayor Chris Bollwage as the

City of Elizabeth celebrates America's Night Out Against Crime. Come out & enjoy free food, demonstrations & entertainment at Kellogg Park-North & Madison Ave.

ONGOING — AUGUST 28

NJPAC presents Absolut Sounds of the City with various musical performances every Thursday from 5:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

ONGOING — SEPT 8

Jersey City — Liberty Science Center presents an exhibit of Sue, a Tryannosaurus Rex. For more info call 201-200-1000.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 10

Atlantic City — 7th Annual Atlantic County Puerto Rican Parade & Latin Music Festival will begin 1:00 p.m. - 10:30 p.m. on Albany Ave. & the Boardwalk & all the way to New Jersey Ave. For more info call or email 609-347-0770 or acprp@hotmail.com.

Heartbeat

ONGOING

St. Barnabas Health Care System will offer several maternity and parent education classes at Newark Beth Israel, Clara Maass and St. Barnabas. For more info please call each hospital directly for class schedules, dates, costs and to register. Clara Maass-Women's Health Center at 973-450-2890; Newark Beth Israel-Parent Education at 973-926-2642 and St. Barnabas - Women's Health Department at 973-322-5360.

Belleville — Clara Maass Caregivers Support Group meets on the second Monday of the month at 6:00 p.m. in the Medical Center's South Annex. For more info call 973-450-2285.

Newark — Beth Israel Medical Center offers free program, "Look Good, Feel Good" for women dealing with the effects of Cancer treatment and need assistance with their make-up and hair styling. For more info call 973-926-7609.

Livingston — St. Barnabas Medical Center offers Diabetes Self-Management Classes. For more info call 973-322-7236.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 21

Irvington — Family Asthma Program. This program is geared for children ages 5 to 12. Topics will include: asthma triggers, signs & symptoms, treatments & medications, etc. 7:00pm - 8:30pm at Irvington Health Department, 1 Civic Sq. To register call 973-399-6645 by Aug. 18th.



NJPAC presents Absolut Sounds of the City with various musical performances every Thursday from 5:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

TUESDAYS — SEPT 16

Union — 'Tai chi chih for Seniors' hosted by Union Hospital Senior Health Network. Classes start at 10 & 11 a.m. Fee is \$80 for the 8-week course. For more info call 908-851-8997.

Business

ONGOING — AUG 5

Newark — Community Colleges and New Jersey City University Partner to offer Teacher Education Program, a new alternative route Teacher Education Program. Beginning July 7 the Graduate program will run in two phases. For more info call 609-392-3434.

TUESDAY, AUGUST 5

Scotch Plains — Financial Counseling for the Divorced & Widowed seminar. Money attitudes, goal-setting are just a few of the topics from 7:30pm - 9:00pm at Union County College. \$25. For info & to register, call 908-709-7600.

Scotch Plains — Building Long-Term Financial Security Through Mutual Funds seminar at Union County College from 7:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. \$25. For prerequisite info & to register, call 908-709-7600.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 6

Union — Certifications: Federal & State Programs workshop at Kean University. For more info call 908-527-1166.

Wayne — How to Coach Employees to Maximize Achievement. This new seminar gives you the skills you need to help each employee become as successful as possible. 9:00am - 5:00 pm at Wayne Plaza II. To register call 973- 890-0909.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 7

Randolph — Building & Financing Your Business workshop will be held at County College of Morris. For more info call 908-527-1166.

MONDAY, AUGUST 11

Union — Union County College will host Excel XP - Part 2 from 7:00pm - 10:00 p.m. Become familiar with the popular spreadsheet program. \$99 each section. For prerequisite info & to register call 908-709-7600.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 13

Newark — Newark Technology Group Host a networking breakfast at the Theatre Square Grill at 8:00 a.m. For more info call 973-623-9464.

Newark — How To Do Business With The Federal and State Government. Free workshop for small businesses. 10:00am - 1:00 pm at NJIT. For directions & to register call 973-596-3105.

Cranford — Excel XP - Part 1. Become familiar with the popular spreadsheet program. \$99 each section. 8:30 am - 3:30 pm at Union County College - Cranford Campus. For prerequisite info & to register, call 908-709-7600.

Cranford — Excel XP - Part 2. Become familiar with the popular spreadsheet program. \$99 each section. 7:00 pm - 10:00 pm at Union County College - Cranford Campus. For prerequisite info & to register, call 908-709-7600.

Artz

WEDNESDAY, JULY 30

Newark — The 29th Annual Newark Black Film Festival (1:00 p.m.) Family Tour and Art Activity (1:00 & 2:30 p.m.) Adult Art Activities: Artists At Work - Drop-In

Program (1:00 - 3:00 p.m.) Gallery Tours (1:00 - 3:30 p.m.) Mini Zoo Matters: Animal Diversity (1:00 - 4:00 p.m.) Miniature Marvels (1:00 - 4:00 p.m.) Planetarium Program: The Wright Way to Fly (1:30 p.m.) Planetarium Program: Rusty Rocket's Last Blast (2:30 p.m.) The 29th Annual Newark Black Film Festival (7:00 p.m.)

ONGOING — AUGUST 11

Newark — Dancing In The Dark - Part II, an exhibition of 17 emerging artists from the Aljira Emerge Spring 2002 fellowship program continues from 12:00pm - 6:00pm at Aljira. For more info call 973-622-1600.

ONGOING — AUGUST 14

Newark — Newark Museum presents Jazz in the Garden with Jazz musicians every thursday during lunchtime from 12:15 1:45 p.m. For more info call 973-596-6493.

ONGOING — AUGUST 31

Newark — The Newark Museum presents the film, Half Past Autumn: The Art of Gordon Parks, a legendary American Artist. For more info call 973-596-6550.

AUGUST 1

Bloomfield Gary U.S. Bonds performs free concert at Brookdale Park. For more info call 973-268-3500 ext. 4.

AUGUST 1 — AUGUST 2

New York — Ray Charles will perform at B.B. King's at 8:00 p.m. For more info call 212-997-4555.

Jackson Quintet with Mark Whitefield, Sam Yahel, Lenny White & Fred Wesley will celebrate the release of the new CD 'Easy Does It' at Jazz Standard at 7:30 p.m. Tickets \$25. For additional times, location & reservations, call 212-576-2232.

Religion

ONGOING

Newark — St. James AME Church invites you to Sunday worship service at 10:45 a.m., 588 Dr. M.L.K. Drive. For more info call 973-622-1344.

Visit CityNewsNetwork.com for a complete set of calendar listings

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Thankful youth tells how DYFS worker turned his life around

Middlesex County, met Dijaun when he was six years old. And for over 12 years, she has been a positive influence on Dijaun, who still keeps in touch with her.

In his eloquent essay, written with no prompting from the mother who ultimately adopted him, Dijaun praises the life skills and character traits that Ms. Sterling instilled in him from the first day she met him.

Despite difficult years in foster care, Dijaun doesn't lament his sad lot in life as a youngster and almost blames himself for his situation, saying in the essay he was "in need of serious guidance...even at that age [6], I was heading in the wrong direction."

It seems his first foster mother had him sleep on a cot in the hall. She also kept another set of foster children from another county — from Essex County and from Union County — a fact unknown to DYFS at the time, and she would whisk one set away to her adult children during inspections. When DYFS gave her money for clothes for the foster children, she would take the clothes back to the store and keep the money. With her food allowance, she would buy pork chops for herself and make her foster children eat only ziti.

Dijaun's second foster mother refused to participate in counseling and almost immediately told DYFS social worker Yolanda Sterling, "I don't like him. I want him out of my house."

Sterling so hurried to get Dijaun out of that home that she placed him with his third foster mother, attorney Paulette Brown before she had a room fixed up and ready for him. Although the room was modest and not quite-done, the condition of the room didn't matter to Dijaun, who kept showing off "his room" to anyone who came to the house. He'd never slept in a room!

Twelve years later, Paulette Brown is his adoptive mom and Dijaun is an academic achiever, trying to decide between Clark Atlanta and Howard Universities. For this, Dijaun credits his mom and Ms. Sterling. His essay details how "Ms. Sterling's first mission was to stress to me the importance of education. She tried to make certain I was properly executing all that was required of me in school, and would make periodic checks. She eventually completed her mission when she found an appropriate parent to take care of me. She taught me how to believe in myself, and how if I truly

want something, then to never give up until I possess it."

Paulette Brown, of Plainfield in Union County, is a partner in the Newark office of Duane Morris LLP and former president of the National Bar Association. She heaps praise upon the DYFS that she knows. "A real burden is placed upon them to try to find good and safe placements for so many children. But I haven't had any bad experience with DYFS. Yolanda did so much work on Dijaun to keep him from being classified as a special education student, and she made sure he had counseling, too," said Brown, who adopted Dijaun in 1993 — one year after he came to her.

Dijaun's self-determination was clearly evident between 10th and 11th grade when he didn't believe that his current parochial school believed in him. He had seen a story on "60 Minutes" about a private preparatory school in the south. Unbeknownst to Brown, he sent an email to the school using her law office email, and they emailed back a positive response to her indicating they would "accept your son" into their elite school.

So he spent his last two high school years at the nationally renowned Piney Woods Country Life School in Piney Woods, Mississippi. Dijaun is now 18 and just graduated. "They are apparently doing something really right there," explained his mom. "Every kid in Dijaun's class has been accepted into at least two colleges."

"As a result of Ms. Sterling's guidance, I have learned valuable lessons," Dijaun says in his essay. "I remember how she showed compassion for the children she worked with, and I now possess that same compassion for children. That is why every chance I get, I work with young children, especially during the summer months."

"I have also learned how to help other people with their problems, by using my own experiences as a source of guidance. I am known to be generous, only because I have encountered people who have been generous to me throughout my life."

He closes his essay with, "I thank people such as Yolanda Sterling, because without their influence in my life, I may not be able to pursue my education and my life's dreams."

NOTE: If you or someone you know would be a good foster parent, call 1-877-NJ FOSTER.

Newark athletes got rousing sendoff to Youth Games

Nearly 200 of Newark's finest young athletes and coaches flew to San Francisco on July 25 to compete in the year 2003 U.S. Youth Games, against 11 teams from around the United States.

A year after hosting this national, Olympic-style competition for youngsters aged 13-15, 136 Newark athletes, 22 coaches, and 15 chaperones headed to the West Coast to defend last year's three Gold Medals and to try to win more. Mayor Sharpe James personally lead the Newark team and passed the Youth Games Torch to San Francisco Mayor Willie L. Brown Jr. at the opening ceremonies.

The Newark squad will go to a full-scale send-off from the city at a Shabazz Athletic Complex pep rally.

The team competed in all 10 events: co-ed bowling, boys' and girls' basketball, co-ed golf, girls' volleyball, boys' soccer and girls' soccer, boys'

and girls' swimming, boys' and girls' tennis, boys' flag football, a co-ed academic bowl, and boys' and girls' track and field.

"Last year, Newark was proud to host the U.S. Youth Games. This year, Newark is proud to compete in San Francisco and turn over the Youth Games Torch," said James. "Regardless of the outcome, every member of this team, whether they are a coach, player, chaperone, or staff member, is a winner. I salute them."


The Newark squad took on teams from Birmingham, Alabama; Columbia, South Carolina; East Orange; Milwaukee; Oakland, Orange; San Francisco; New York City; South San Francisco; Los Angeles, and the Virgin Islands. Nearly 857 athletes competed.

Newark has competed in the U.S. Youth Games for the past 32 years. Last year, when Newark hosted the annual event, a record 1,600 athletes

from across the nation came to Newark, competing at sites throughout the city. Newark gained Gold Medals in Boys' Basketball, Flag Football, and Girls' Bowling.


The Newark Youth Games team is sponsored by the Department of Neighborhood and Recreational Services' Division of Recreation and Cultural Affairs.

"Every young athlete who takes part in these games learns valuable lessons about sportsmanship, life, and competition. They gain skills and make friendships that will last forever. I have no doubt that our team includes the next Tiger Woods, the next Jackie Joyner Kersee, the next Shaquille O'Neal, and the next Venus Williams. These games are their first step on the road to greatness. All of Newark is rooting for them," said Mayor James.



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